

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

LEM PRODUCTS

Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center

LEM Products Reduces Inventory and Improves Efficiency

Client Profile:

LEM Products, founded in 1979, produces labels, tags, marking devices, plastic signage and label tapes for both stock and custom orders. The company employs 24 people at its facility in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Situation:

LEM Products was looking for solutions to deal with the following issues: 1) their factory was disorganized and inefficient; and 2) they had excess inventory that was constraining both cash flow and space. The company had a long-standing relationship with the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center (DVIRC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, and called upon DVIRC for assistance.

Solution:

With guidance from DVIRC, LEM decided that they would organize their business into two value streams, electronic products and industrial products. DVIRC's Lean content experts worked with LEM to create and move the two value streams into two different buildings. A kanban pull system was then created for the electronic product value stream. DVIRC developed a kanban pull system for the company's two primary products, voltage and wire marker cards and Industrial Pack Wire Marker pages, which included visual signals for raw materials and supplies. The new system called a 'supermarket' enabled LEM to establish a production and material pull system to meet and satisfy customer demand. The new procedure was reviewed with all personnel, and standard work was developed.

Results:

- * Reduced inventory by 142 percent.
- * Improved on-time delivery by 60 percent.
- * Improved efficiency by 80 percent.

Testimonial:

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